

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12
INR-10 IO-13 L-03 EB-08 NRC-05 SOE-02 DOE-11
SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PM-05 DOEE-00 /117 W
-----090480 131745Z /46

O R 131540Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4071

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

USIAEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, UK

SUBJECT: WINDSCALE AND REPROCESSING OF NUCLEAR FUEL

REF: LONDON 3894

1. REFTTEL REPORTS BRITISH NUCLEAR FUELS LIMITED (BNFL)
EXPECTATION THAT GROUND WILL BE BROKEN FOR THE WINDSCALE
REPROCESSING EXPANSION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER FINAL
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APPROVAL HAS BEEN RECEIVED. ARTICLE IN "THE ECONOMIST"
(11-17 MARCH ISSUE) SUGGESTS CONSTRUCTION WOULD NOT
BEGIN FOR TWO OR THREE YEARS. BNFL OFFICIALS INDICATE
THAT "ECONOMIST" WAS BASING ITS INFORMATION ON DISCUS-
SION WITH BNFL AND HAVE SUPPLIED US THE FOLLOWING
DETAILED SEQUENCE OF CONSTRUCTION STAGES:

A) STRAIGHTENING OF CALDER RIVER RUNNING BETWEEN

CALDER HALL NUCLEAR POWER STATION AND EXISTING WINDSCALE WORKS IS ALREADY WELL ADVANCED.

B) "BREAKING GROUND" MENTIONED ABOVE AND IN REFTEL WILL CONSIST OF (1) INITIATING CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST FUEL STORAGE PONDS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REPROCESSING CAPACITY EXPANSION AND (2) BEGINNING GENERAL SITE GRADING FOR THE NEW REPROCESSING PLANT.

C) CONCRETE PILES FOR THE NEW PROCESSING PLANT WOULD BE BEGUN WITHIN TWO YEARS OF STEP (B) ABOVE.

D) STEEL ERECTION FOR THE NEW REPROCESSING PLANT WOULD BE BEGUN WITHIN THREE YEARS OF STEP (B) ABOVE (I.E., ONE YEAR AFTER STEP (C)).

E) THE NEW STORAGE PONDS WOULD BE LARGELY COMPLETED BY 1984.

F) THE NEW REPROCESSING PLANT WOULD BEGIN OPERATIONS IN 1987 AND BE FULLY OPERATIVE IN 1989.

2. FOR COMPARISON, THE FRENCH COGEMA REPROCESSING FACILITY EXPECTS TO BEGIN OPERATIONS IN 1985. THE WINDSCALE DEMONSTRATION PLANT FOR VITRIFICATION OF CONCENTRATED RADIOACTIVE WASTES IS EXPECTED TO BE OPERATIVE BY 1988.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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